

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01 /066 W

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R 271530Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4288

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH Q

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CB, XC, SW

SUBJECT: PRINCE SIHANOUK COMPLAINS ABOUT ARTICLE
IN SWEISH PAPER

1. THE SWEDISH DAILY DAGENS NYHETER OF MARCH 26 CARRIED
A LETTER FROM EXILE CAMBODIAN PRINCE NORODOM SIHANOUK,
COMPLAINING ABOUT AN ARTICLE ON CAMBODIA WHICH HAD
APPARED IN THE MARCH 23 EDITION OF THE SAME PAPER. THE
ARTICLE, WRITTEN BY A CORRESPONDENT OF THE PAPER NOW
IN PHNOM PENH, BENGT, ALBONS, WAS ENTITLED "THE LAST
MERCENARY," AND CONTAINED AN INTERVIEW WITH A CERTAIN
MAXI BORELLA, DESCRIBED AS A MERCENARY OF FRENCH OCGIN
COMMANDING A COMPANY OF KHMER REPUBLIC PARATROOPERS.
ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, BORELLA HAD FOUGHT PREVIOUSLY
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IN SUCH PLACES AS ALGERIA, THE CONGO, BIAFRA, VIETNAM,

ETC. HE REPORTEDLY TOLD HIS INTERVIEWER THAT HE NO LONGER FIGHTS FOR MONEY BUT RATHER BECAUSE OF PS HATRED OF COMMUNISM.

2. SIHANOUK TOOK PARTICULAR EXCEPTION TO BORELLA'S ASSERTION THAT "60 PERCENT OF GUERRILLA SOLDIERS IN CAMBODIA ARE NORTH VIETNAMESE," AND HIS CLAIM THAT BOTH CHINESE AND RUSSIANS FIGHT WITH THE GUERRILLAS. TERMING THESE ACCUSATIONS "DETESTABLE AND RECKLESS INSULTS," SIHANOUK ASSERTED THAT EVEN THE AMERICANS, "OUR OFFICIAL ENEMIES, ADMIT THAT SINCE THE SECOND HALD OF 1972 THE KHMER ROUGE FIGHTS ALONE WITHOUT ANY ASSISTANCE FROM THEIR VIETNAMESE COMRADES, WHO ARE DOING NOTHING MORE THAN HANDLING THE TRANSPORT FROM NORTH VIETNAM TO THE CAMBODIAN BORDER." DENYING THAT THE SOVIETS GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE KHMER ROUGE, SIHANOUK CLAIMED THAT "THE WHOLE WORLD KNOWS THAT AMONG THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES IT IS ONLY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, NORTH VIETNAM, AND NORTH KOREA WHICH GRANT MILITARY AID TO THE CAMBODIAN NATIONAL RESISTANCE AND EVEN THEN IT IS A MATTER OF MATERIAL ASSISTANCE, NO SOLDIERS."

3. SIHANOUK'S LETTER WAS ANSWERED BY DAGEN NYHETER'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS EDITOR, SVEN OSTE, WHO POINTS OUT THAT SIHANOUK'S PERCEPTION OF THE FUNCTION OF THE PRESS DIFFERS FROM THAT PREVAILING IN THE WESTERN WORLD. THIS IS INDICATED, OSTE CONTINUES, BY THE "TEMPERAMENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND PROESTS" SIHANOUK USED TO MAKE TO THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS BEFORE HE WAS OUTSTED BY LON NOL IN 1970. IN THE WESTERN PRESS, OSTE ASSERTS, STATEMENTS BY POLITICIANS AND OTHER FIGURES CAN BE PUBLISHED WITHOUT IT BEING NECESSARY FOR THE PAPER CARRING THEM TO REFUTE THEM. IN THE CASE OF BORELLA, DAGENS NYHETER WAS WRIPV ABOUT "AN ECCENTRIC" IN THE CAMBODIAN CONFLICT, AND ACCORDING TO OSTRE, THE PAPER ASSUMED THAT ITS READERS WOULD NOT RPT NO ASSUME HE WAS SPEAKING THE TRUTH. OSTE CONCLUDES WITH THE OBSERVATION THAT BORELLA'S "MYTHS AND LIES SHOULD HAVE BEEN EVIDENT TO THOSE WHO HAVE READ THE INFORMATION ON CAMBODIA CARRIED IN DAGENS NYHETER DURING THE FIVE YEARS OF THE WAR."

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4. COMMENT: BY RESPONDING SO INDIGANTLY TO AN ARTICLE IN A SWEDISH PAPER, SIHANOUK WOULD SEEM TO BE ACTING IN CONFORMITY WITH HIS REPUTATION FOR UNPREDICTABLE AND EVEN MERCURIAL BEHAVIOR. WHAT IS SURPRISING IS THAT SOMEONE IN THE EXILEPRINCE'S ENTOURAGE WOULD HAVE NOTED AN ARTICLE IN A PAPER IN SWEDEN AND SO PROMPTLY BROUGHT IT TO SIHANOUK'S ATTENTION. FROM THE

POINT OF VIEW OF DAGENS NYHETER, THE INTEREST OF SIHANOUK
IN ONE OF ITS ARTICLES WAS UNDOUBTEDLY FLATTERING, ALTHOUGH
IN VIEW OF THE PAPER'S ROLE AS A VEHEMENT CRITIC OF US
POLICY IN INDOCHINA, SIHANOUK'S CRITICISM MAY HAVE BEEN
MILDLY EMBARRASSING. STRAUSS-HUPE

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